

Lundy would move to amend the bill. Senator Lundy's amendment is on page 787 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lundy.

SENATOR LUNDY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, the amendment that I offer today would simply authorize the cities in the State of Nebraska to go to 1 1/2 percent for sales tax rather than now it is limited to 1 percent in all cities except Omaha and Lincoln. You will recall, those of you that were in the Legislature last year will recall that Lincoln asked for and received authority to go 1 1/2 percent for their community. This requires a vote of the people, as all of you know, and this amendment, all it does is authorizes the cities of our state and the villages to go for an election to use city sales tax to further broaden their authority for a tax base and then to either use 1 percent sales tax or 1 1/2 percent sales tax. This would be up to the people, an amendment just simply to authorize this tax at the same limit that Omaha and Lincoln now have. With that, I would try to answer any questions, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have a little lowering of the conversation tone a few decibels please. Anybody wish to speak on the Lundy amendment? Senator Harris. Senator Vard Johnson, do you wish to speak on the Lundy amendment?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the Lundy amendment was offered to the Revenue Committee as a bill. There were two local option sales tax bills offered to the Revenue Committee. LB 890 was one of those, and the Lundy amendment was the other one of those. The Revenue Committee chose to place on the floor of the Legislature LB 890 because it felt that the kind of sales tax authority that cities wanted for special projects had been adequately justified and explained to the Revenue Committee. However, the committee also concluded that simply affording first and second class cities the opportunity to go to the people and increase their sales taxes from 1 percent to 1 1/2 percent had not been adequately justified, had simply not been adequately justified, and so the Revenue Committee killed the Lundy amendment. We killed that bill. It is for that reason that I will oppose Senator Lundy's amendment. I want this body to understand that the concept of an additional half a cent